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Westwood Cyber High School
Westwood Public Schools

Westwood Cyber High School Program Overview

Westwood Cyber High School is an International learning environment which utilizes the model of the Not-School Program. This model originated in the United Kingdom, and offers a customized educational experience for students who are unable to attend school for a variety of reasons. The three “Rs”, rigor, relevance and relationship are infused into this student centered program.

The Westwood Cyber High School offers students an opportunity to earn a High School diploma and develop the skills necessary for higher education or future employment.

The Westwood Community School district has a formal partnership with the Inclusion trust, an entity of the Ministry of Education of the U.K., and collaborates with them regularly to ensure that the research based best practices are implemented with fidelity. The Not School Program has a 98% reengagement rate, and has serviced more than 4,000 at risk and disengaged students in 8 years of documented success.

Westwood Cyber High School is a **year round** educational program available 24 hours a day seven days a week. Our program offers two learning options for students and families. Both paths are **constructivist, project based, on-line learning experiences**. All learning experiences are individualized to meet student needs. Student progress is monitored and supported by mentors, experts, and project team leaders to ensure student success.

The school district provides the technology and connectivity in the student’s home. By providing access to computers and connectivity we not only ensure that all students have access to school, regardless of socio-economic status, but also create a very rich and vibrant learning community where all students can share the 21 century learning skills they acquire.

One size does not fit all, so Westwood Cyber School offers to customizable learning venues, **My School** and **Not School**. **My School** will service students who have displayed a pattern of failure

and falling behind in obtaining High School graduation credits. Students are required to participate in the virtual learning environment as well as utilize a tech center within the district a minimum of twice a week. During this time they participate in face to face meetings with experts and mentors, to ensure students remain engaged in the project based learning process and virtual environment.

Not School will service disengaged students whom for a variety of reasons cannot attend school such as: Dropped out, expelled, or who are phobic, sick, or can no longer attend school. Students participate in the same project based virtual learning environment as **My School** and do not visit the tech center on a regular basis.

The average researcher (student) to adult ratio is 1 to 4.

How It Works

Researcher:	The student
Mentor:	A certified teacher available online only for Not School Students and Online and in the Learning Lab for My School Students
Expert:	An expert in a specific content subject area: Highly Qualified

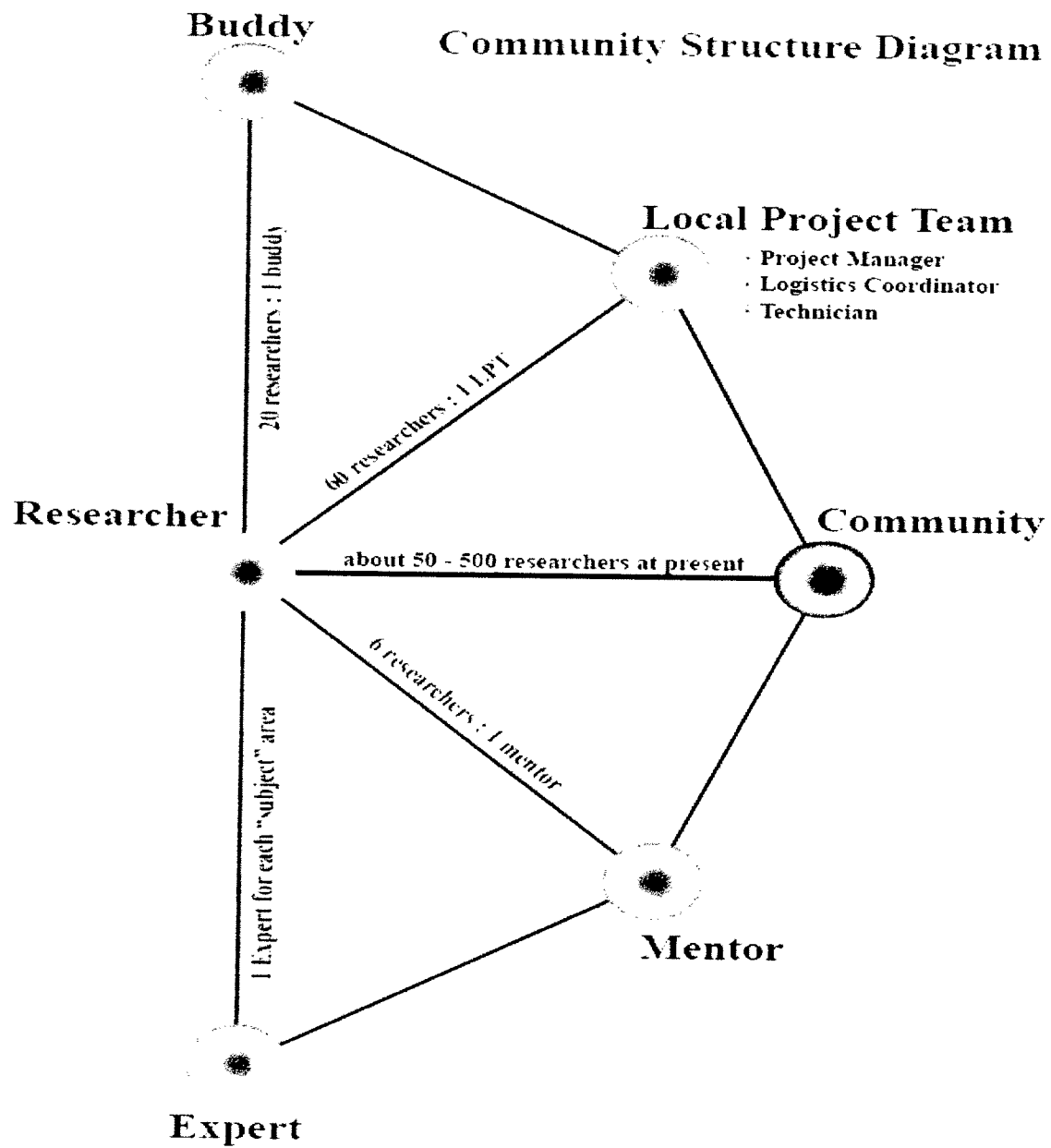
Project Team:

Team Leader: The team leader will service all researchers within the community but is responsible for ensuring the success of a cohort of 60 students. If a student disengages in the process or needs additional support then the team leader will assist the researcher through a variety of established interventions including conducting home visits.

Technician: The technician is available to support researchers (students) with technical difficulties that may arise and will ensure student access to functioning hardware/software and connectivity.

Logistics Coordinator: Will assist the community with enrollment, inductions, reporting, and home visits.

Community Structure Diagram



The Program Currently

The Westwood Cyber High School began in February 2009, and currently has **180** full time students enrolled with an additional **140** students on a waiting list. To make this program possible the district has utilized various funding sources, the largest portion being that of our general fund dollars. However, we did receive a Models of Demonstrated Proficiency Grant from the Michigan Department Of Education and are one of eleven models currently, utilizing Title II D funding to fuel innovation. In the absence of such funding sources, it is doubtful the Westwood Cyber High School would be in existence to service at risk teens in Wayne County. This innovative program will be self sustaining through per pupil funding received through the state aide package.

We would like to ensure that the language of the K-12 appropriations bill of the current stimulus package is inclusive of unique and innovative programs like the Westwood Cyber High School. This program offers a meaningful avenue of success to students who have failed to flourish in the traditional setting. This is done by incorporating, relationships, rigor and relevance into a project based international online learning environment.

“The significant problems we have can not be solved with the same level of thinking were using when we created them.” *Albert Einstein*